SEGURA
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DICK TRACY®

MAD CAVE

#17

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SEGURA • MORECI • BORGES
OSMAN • ENGLERT • BROSSEAU

DICK TRACY®

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FUNNY THE THINGS YOU TAKE FOR GRANTED. SOME PEOPLE GO AROUND SUPPOSIN' THEY BECOME THIS OR BECOME THAT JUST CUZ THEY WERE MEANT FOR IT.

LIKE THEY WERE ***BORN*** FOR IT.

I THINK ABOUT IT SOMETIMES. NOT OFTEN. I FIGURE WE ARE WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE ARE, AND WHATEVER GOT YOU THERE IS PROBABLY OUT OF OUR CONTROL.

BEST YOU CAN DO IS ***EMBRACE*** IT. BE IT. NOTHIN' SADDER THAN A MAN WHO DENIES HIS OWN LOT IN LIFE.

AND THAT'S WHERE I COME IN--I ***KNOW*** MY LOT IN LIFE.

I KNOW WHO I AM.

I DON'T TAKE IT FOR GRANTED--KNOWING WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO. KNOWING MY PLACE IN ALL THIS MADNESS. IT'S A POWERFUL THING.

MAYBE IT'S WHERE I WANT TO BE. MAYBE IT'S NOT. DOESN'T MATTER.

FIGHTING IT WOULD JUST MAKE ME WEAK.

THIS IS WHO I AM. IT'S WHO THEY WANT ME TO BE--AND IT'S WHAT THEY'RE GONNA GET.

I'LL BE THE ONE WHO'LL DO THE THINGS THE OTHER GUY WON'T. I'LL BE THE ONE WHO WON'T BE RULED BY THE LAWS OF MAN.

I'LL BE CHAOS.

AND LET'S JUST SEE IF THEY CAN *STOP* ME.

CARE TO COMMENT, MISS TRUEHEART?

SUPERCOP ORRUPT?

NO. I LIKE TO KEEP MY FOCUS ON *ACTUAL* NEWS, JOE.

OH *REALLY?* AND WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THIS?

TRASH.

AND WHY'S THAT? MULTIPLE WITNESSES SAW TRACY CALLED INTO CHIEF PATTON'S OFFICE AND READ THE RIOT ACT. AND I *HEAR* IT'S OVER SOME KIND OF *INTERNAL CORRUPTION.*

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT *DICK TRACY,* WAR HERO TURNED COP WITH AN IMPECCABLE RECORD, HAS DECIDED TO THROW IT ALL AWAY SO HE CAN...WHAT? SKIM A FEW BUCKS FROM THE EVIDENCE LOCKER?

I DON'T DEAL IN MOTIVE, I DEAL IN *FACTS.* IF SOURCES SAY THESE THINGS HAPPENED, THEY HAPPENED. THE *WHY* OF IT DOESN'T CONCERN ME.

WELL MAYBE IT *SHOULD*-- ASSUMING YOU WANT TO BE AN *ACTUAL* REPORTER.

IF HEARSAY-- AND THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE, *HEARSAY*-- IS OUT OF CHARACTER, IT'S YOUR *JOB* TO FIGURE OUT WHY.

SEE, I THOUGHT IT WAS MY JOB TO SELL PAPERS. AND HEADLINES LIKE MINE--THEY *SELL PAPERS.*

SURE--YOU CAN UNLOAD PAPERS AND YOUR CREDIBILITY IN ONE FELL SWOOP.

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK ABOUT CREDIBILITY.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

YOU'RE AWFULLY CLOSE TO TRACY, AREN'T YOU? I MEAN, I KNOW MY EXPERIENCE IS SO LIMITED COMPARED TO ***YOURS,*** BUT I DO KNOW THAT WHEN YOU GET INTIMATE WITH A PERSON, IT'S EASY TO START RATIONALIZING WHAT THEY DO.

YOU FOCUS ON THOSE ***WHYS,*** AND NOT THE ***FACTS.***

WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT DICK TRACY AND I BEING ***INTIMATE?***

YOU ***ARE*** SLEEPING WITH HIM, AREN'T YOU?

WHAP

MAYBE I'M NOT SUCH A BAD INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST AFTER ALL.

"HOW LONG CAN THIS REALLY LAST, BOSS?"

DIAMOND

CENTER

DIAMOND CE

I MEAN, THIS WAR WITH CAPRICE...IT'S TAKIN' A BIG TOLL.

YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT I THINK, SHOULDERS?

I THINK BIG BOY CAPRICE IS A ***BUSINESSMAN.*** SURE, HE KNOWS SOME TRICKS, AND HE'S GOT SOME GUTS--I'LL GIVE HIM THAT. HE CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE ONCE. BUT MARK MY WORDS--

THAT'LL ***NEVER*** HAPPEN AGAIN.

NOW IT'S ***WAR,*** AND HE DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN A WAR. THAT REQUIRES SOMETHING ***ELSE***--

IT REQUIRES WHAT I GOT AND HE DON'T--

THE ***GUTS*** TO ENDURE.

I GREW UP ON THESE STREETS. I KNOW THEM--THEY'RE IN MY **BONES,** AND THEY MAKE ME **STRONG.**

BIG BOY CAPRICE, WHOEVER THE HELL HE IS, WHEREVER HE'S FROM--HE DOESN'T HAVE THE SAME HEART. HE DOESN'T HAVE THE FIGHT IN HIM THAT ONLY THE CITY CAN GIVE YOU.

TRUST ME, SHOULDERS. THE LONGER THIS WAR GOES ON, THE WORSE IT GETS FOR CAPRICE.

HE'LL BREAK. BELIEVE ME...

...HE'LL BREAK.

WHO *ARE* YOU?

HOW CAN A PERSON HAVE NO BACKGROUND, NO RECORD, NO PROOF OF AN EXISTENCE OTHER THAN THE TIMES HE'S GOTTEN *LOCKED UP?*

IT'S LIKE YOU DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL YOU GOT PUT AWAY.

IT MAKES *NO* SENSE...

...*NONE* OF THIS DOES.

ALL THIS CRIME...AND NO PUNISHMENT.

HOW DO YOU DO IT, CAPRICE?

YOU HAVE YOUR HAND IN DAMN NEAR EVERY MAJOR CRIME IN THIS CITY, AND ***NOTHING*** STICKS TO YOU.

WE INVESTIGATE, WE GET WARRANTS, WE SEARCH...

...AND YOU DODGE US ***EVERY*** TIME. OR SOMEONE TAKES THE FALL. OR A KEY ***WITNESS*** TAKES A FALL--DOWN AN ELEVATOR SHAFT.

THERE ***HAS*** TO BE A WAY TO GET TO YOU. YOU MUST HAVE A WEAKNESS, SOMETHING WE CAN--

KNOK KNOK KNOK

WHO'S THERE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'WHO'S THERE'? OPEN THE DOOR, TRACY...

...DON'T YOU KNOW YOUR *PARTNER'S* KNOCK WHEN YOU HEAR IT?

I'VE BEEN CALLING. YOUR PHONE OFF THE HOOK OR SOMETHING? I WAS STARTING TO GET WORRIED, SO I FIGURED I'D GRAB YOU A CUP AND--

OH.

WELL...I SEE WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ANSWERING MY CALLS.

YOU'VE BEEN *BUSY.*

SAM, I KNOW IT'S A LOT--

JUST STAY WITH ME, ALL RIGHT?

PARTNER, I WAS WORRIED BEFORE. NOW I'M *SCARED.*

ALL THESE DEALS, THESE CRIMES AND CRIMINALS, SHELL COMPANIES AND STOLEN LAND AND SO MUCH MORE--IT ALL POINTS BACK TO ONE PERSON. AND WE KNOW WHO HE IS.

WHAT WE *DON'T* KNOW IS HOW TO NAIL THIS BASTARD TO THE WALL. EVERY TIME WE GET CLOSE, HE SLIPS THROUGH OUR FINGERS.

I KNOW THAT, DICK. BUT THIS IS HOW IT GOES--GUYS LIKE CAPRICE DON'T GET TO THE TOP WITHOUT BEING HARD TO NAIL. BY THE COPS OR THEIR COMPETITION.

I KNOW, I KNOW, BUT THIS IS--

THIS IS WHAT?

PERSONAL? BECAUSE HE EVADED YOU ONCE? BECAUSE HE'S GOT SOMEONE ON THE INSIDE TRYING TO RUIN YOUR REPUTATION?

IT'S NOT THAT. THIS ABOUT RIGHT AND WRONG, AND CAPRICE HAS BEEN TOO WRONG FOR TOO LONG. HE HAS TO ANSWER TO WHAT HE'S--

BRRNNNGGG BRRNNNGGG

HELLO? YES, THIS IS--

WHAT'S THAT? WAIT, YOU--HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

I GOT IT. I GOT IT. IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN--

TRACY? WHO WAS THAT? WHAT'D THEY SAY?

SAM...

...I THINK YOU SHOULD LEAVE.

BAD TIME FOR TRACY TO GO OFF THE GRID.

MAKIN' IT SEEM LIKE HE'S ***RUNNIN'*** FROM THE RUMORS. INSTEAD OF--

--AT THEM?

PAT? PAT PATTON? THAT YOU?

GEEZ, BROTHER-- IT'S BEEN ***FOREVER!***

HARRY? ***HARD CASE HARRY?*** YOU'RE RIGHT--IT HAS BEEN.

HEARD YOU WERE FINISHING UP ***FIVE TO TEN*** UPSTATE.

JUST RUMORS, PATTY. YOU KNOW ME.

I GOT ALL SORTS OF TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE.

LOVELY TA SEE YA, HARRY, BUT I GOTTA GET GOING.

HOPE YOU'VE BEEN CHECKIN' WITH YOUR PAROLE OFFICER, TOO. CAN'T REALLY BE SEEN CHATTIN' YOU UP ANYMORE, NO OFFENSE.

OH, NONE TAKEN, MR. *COMMISSIONER.*

I KNOW YOU HAVE A *LOT* TO WORRY ABOUT.

THE HELL'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

I JUST KNOW--WELL, THE WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT YOUR PLATE IS FULL. VERY FULL.

LISSEN, YOU NO-GOOD CON ARTIST, I'M GONNA ASK YOU THIS ONE LAST TIME. ANSWER FAST, BECAUSE YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO, I AIN'T THE PATIENT TYPE.

WHAT THE *HELL* WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

LISSEN, PAT, MY BOY, WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A LONG, LONG TIME.

SURELY YOU'VE HEARD THE RUMORS, TOO, RIGHT?

SHOOT WITH ME STRAIGHT, HARRY--BEFORE I LOSE MY PATIENCE AGAIN. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

PEOPLE ARE TALKING, PAT. SERIOUS SHIT. TALKING ABOUT HIM...

TALKIN' ABOUT ***DICK TRACY*** BEING ON THE TAKE.

WHO'S TALKIN', YOU SONOVABITCH? WHO? WHAT ***PROOF*** DO YOU HAVE?

HEY, HEY, HEY, TAKE IT EASY! ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I HEAR, AND THE BIRDS ARE SQUAWKIN', PAT--

HELL, THEY SAY TRACY'S GONNA BE AT THE RITZ LATER TONIGHT--TO KISS THE RING! TO MAKE SURE HIS ***REAL*** BOSS, ***LIPS,*** KNOWS HE'S ON HIS SIDE!

YA CAN'T MAKE THIS UP, PALLY.

THUMP!

UNNGGGHH...

ATTABOY, PAT. ATTABOY.

THIS IS THE PLACE...

BUT WHY WOULD *SNAILS* WANT TO MEET HERE?

SNAILS IS A SNITCH, EVEN THOUGH HE'S ON BIG BOY'S PAY ROLL.

A FEW BILLS MIGHT CONVINCE HIM TO SPILL ON WHAT HIS BOSS IS UP TO.

BUT THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

YOU'RE GETTIN' RUSTY, COPPER.

'CUZ NOW IT'S A LITTLE TOO LATE TO BE HAVIN' DOUBTS.

CONFIDENCE DOLAN...BIG BOY'S CUSTODIAN. SHOULD'VE KNOWN HE'D ASK YOU TO CLEAN UP HIS MESS.

DON'T YOU FOOLS KNOW BETTER THAN TO SET UP A COP?

A COP?

NOT WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH YOU.

WHUMP!

OOOF!

KRRWNNCCCH!

ERRGHH!

GUY CAN'T EVEN GET A LICK IN! HE'S DONE! *DONE!*

GET UP... GOTTA GET UP...

BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY...AND THE BOSS SAID TO BE *REAL* SURE...

G'NIGHT, TRACY...

WHOMP!

DAMN, THOUGHT THIS GUY WAS *INVINCIBLE.*

DOESN'T SEEM SO TOUGH.

THAT'S THE IDEA, BOYS.

YOU PECK AT HIM. SLICE AT HIM. MAKE HIM DOUBT HIMSELF. MAKE HIM WEAKER.

THEN YOU TAKE YOUR SWING. *HARD.*

SO WHADDA WE DO NOW, BOSS? FINISH HIM OFF?

YOU *NUTS?* KILL DICK TRACY?!

YOU DO NOTHING, BOYS. THIS IS *MY* PROBLEM NOW.

BREATHLESS MAHONEY KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE BAD MEN. ESPECIALLY DICK TRACY.

BRING HIM TO THE CAR. WE HAVE A DATE AT THE RITZ.

THE NEXT MORNING.

LITTLE EARLY FOR YOU, AIN'T IT? DIDN'T KNOW YOU CAME OUT IN THE SUNLIGHT.

VERY FUNNY. A DATE'S A DATE, DADDY. THIS IS *IMPORTANT.*

IMPORTANT FOR ***WHOM,*** SWEETHEART? I GOT NOTHIN' TO OFFER BIG BOY. SO HE'D BETTER BE READY TO WASH HIS HANDS OF THIS CITY, OR IT'S GONNA BE A REAL SHORT CONVERSATION.

YOU TRUST FANGS? YOU THINK THIS IS LEGIT?

I TRUST FANGS FOREMAN WITH MY LIFE, DADDY. HE SAID BIG BOY WANTED TO MEET--SO LET'S MEET.

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?

"THE WORST"? I CAN THINK OF LOTS OF THINGS. BUT YOU WERE NEVER A BIG THINKER, BABY. EVEN YOUR MA SAID SO, REST HER SOUL.

YOU LET SHOULDERS KNOW? IF HE'S NOT THERE, I'M NOT GOING INSIDE. MAKE SURE YOU CALL HIM.

OH, I CALLED HIM.

DON'T WORRY, *DADDY.*

C'MON, BABY, WE AIN'T GOT ALL DAY. YOU KNOW I HATE TO BE LATE.

JESUS. DUMB BROAD. JUST LIKE HER MOTHER. CAN'T TELL TIME TO SAVE HER--

--LIFE.

HIYA, LIPS...

BEEN A MINUTE.

NO! NO! BREATHLESS-- SWEETHEART... PLEASE! HELP ME!

KLIK! KLIK!

NO, NO... LOCKED! HOW?

NO, PLEASE... WHAT HAVE I DONE..?

AIN'T NO TIME FOR THAT LIST, *LIPS*, BABY...

WE'D BE HERE ALL DAMN DAY.

GUUURRRRKK... NO...PLEASE... ANYTHING...

TOO LATE FOR THAT, LIPS.

BIG BOY SENDS HIS REGARDS.

UUURRRRRRKKKK

SNAP!

MY POP USED TO SAY, "KID, IF YOU LIKE WHAT YOU DO? YOU'LL NEVER WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE."

I USED TO LAUGH AT HIM. HERE HE WAS, A COAL MINER, TALKIN' ABOUT LOVIN' HIS JOB. LIVIN' A LIFE FREE OF WORRY.

BUT Y'KNOW WHAT?

I LOVE MY JOB.

SHARK!!!

To Be Continued...

MAD CAVE

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DICK TRACY®

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DICK TRACY® VOL. 3

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No. 1

"FEARLESS" FRED KENNEDY + JAMES "EDWARD" CLARK

THE LASER DRUG FORCE IN THE Florida HIPPOPOTAMUS Cocaine MASSACRE

"HAPPY CABBAGE."
"ANGEL DANDRUFF."
"SPLIFF MAGRIFF."
"GOOD TIME JIB JAB."
STREET DRUGS HAVE MANY NAMES.
BUT THEY'RE ILLEGAL...
...AND MAKE NO MISTAKE...
...THEY WILL KILL YOU!
AND NO ONE WILL BOTHER COMING TO YOUR FUNERAL.
THEY'LL BE TOO EMBARRASSED.
I'M FIRST LADY, MANDY LASER.
AND I'M HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE TERRIFYING WORLD OF...
THERE STANDS THE GLASS...
AND NOW A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY
...ILLEGAL DRUGS!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
..."BUT, MANDY I'M SIXTEEN."
"I HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS IN THE WORLD."
"WHAT'S A HOOT OFF A MARIJUANA CIGARETTE GONNA DO TO ME?"
WELL TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, MISS SMARTY TEATS!
THIS HI-FI VIDEO CASSETTE WILL SHOW YOU WHAT DRUGS REALLY DO...
...ASIDE FROM MAKING BABY JESUS CRY!
THEY WILL RUIN YOUR ENTIRE LIFE! AND THE LIVES OF EVERYONE YOU LOVE.
CAN SOMEONE FIX THIS GODDAMNED THING!
IT'S DOING THAT BLURRY THING AGAIN!
NO WONDER WE'RE LOSING TO THE SOVIETS...
...WE CAN'T EVEN BUILD A WORKING VCR!
BAM
FINALLY! IT'S ON!
NOW NOBODY BLINK, OR YOU MIGHT MISS SOME OF THE HIGH CONCENTRATION OF AMERICAN VALUES...
...AND SUBLIMINAL MARKETING FOR THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR...
THE FLORIDA HIPPOPOTAMUS COCAINE MASSACRE

IN A FARAWAY LAND CALLED "FLORIDA" THERE'S A PLACE WHERE THE IMMORTAL MUSIC OF THE 1970s MEETS SEMI-AQUATIC AFRICAN MAMMAL CONSERVATION CREATING AN UNFORGETTABLE VACATION DESTINATION FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

DISCO-HIPPO Wonderland

HEY THERE, GANG! WELCOME TO DISCO HIPPO WONDERLAND!

FLAMINGO CITY'S PREMIUM ANIMAL THEMED AMUSEMENT PARK!

ALSO KNOWN AS THE SWELLEST AND WHOLESOMEST PLACE ON EARTH!

LOOK, IT'S DEFECATING!
FINALLY! THE PILLS ARE KICKING IN!
U-S-A! U-S-A!! U-S-A!!!
MAKE THEM PLAY THE PIANO, DAMMIT!
I PAID FIVE DOLLARS TO BE HERE!
NOW REMEMBER, NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY!
IT COULD SEND THEM INTO A MURDEROUS RAGE.
SOME PEOPLE WOULD CALL HIPPOPOTAMI THE COOLEST AMPHIBIOUS MAMMAL AROUND...
...BUT IF YOU ASK ME THEY'RE PRETTY...
HIP
BARF
HA HA HA HA HA
THEY'RE JUST LIKE US!
SUCH WHOLESOME LAUGHTER.
I'M STEALING THAT JOKE!
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT?
WHAT THE--
OH MY STARS!
LOOK, EVERYONE! A CLOUD!

WELL, HIPPO-HELPERS...

...LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR AN EXTRA DISCO-TASTIC DAY!

...BECAUSE THAT'S FLAMINGO CITY'S MOST FAMOUS CITIZEN!

AND THE FOUNDER OF DISCO HIPPO WONDERLAND...

...JANS M'JOR "DISCO" DISCAU!

DADDY, WHY AM I SUDDENLY SO COLD?

QUIET, BOY...

WE LIVE IN FLORIDA, DADDY..

WHY AM I COLD?*

...NOW THERE'S A PARAGON OF AMERICAN VIRTUE!

A TRUE SPECIMEN OF *EXCEPTIONALISM!*

*INTERNALLY RELIVING TRAUMATIC CHILDHOOD EVENTS? -FRED

HHHISSSSS

ISSUE #1 SOLD OUT! BUY THE SECOND PRINTING TODAY!

MAD CAVE

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"